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Agenda item 65

WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Report of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Kazimierz TOMASZEWSKI (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "World Disarmament Conference: report of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-second session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/61 of 3 December 1986.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 48 to 69, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and continuation of the general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 31st meetings, from 12 October to 3 November (see A/C.1/42/PV.3-31).
4. In connection with item 65, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General, entitled "World Disarmament Conference" (A/42/542 and Add.1);
 - (b) Letter dated 30 March 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the concluding documents of the regular session of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, held in Moscow on 24 and 25 March 1987 (A/42/189-S/18768);

(c) Letter dated 29 May 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communiqué and documents adopted at the session of the Political Consultative Committee of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty on Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, held at Berlin on 28 and 29 May 1987 (A/42/313-S/18888);

(d) Letter dated 6 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Pyongyang Declaration and Plan of Action on South-South Co-operation, adopted by the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned Countries on South-South Co-operation, held at Pyongyang from 9 to 13 June 1987 (A/42/411);

(e) Letter dated 23 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a copy of the final communiqué of the Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-second session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 5 to 7 October 1987 (A/42/681).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/42/L.53

5. On 27 October, Burundi, Peru, Poland, Spain and Sri Lanka submitted a draft resolution, entitled "World Disarmament Conference" (A/C.1/42/L.53). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka at the 36th meeting, on 9 November.

6. In connection with the draft resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on its programme budget implications (A/C.1/42/L.79).

7. At its 44th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.53 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

World Disarmament Conference

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2833 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, 2930 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972, 3183 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 3260 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3469 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/190 of 21 December 1976, 32/89 of 12 December 1977, 33/69 of 14 December 1978, 34/81 of 11 December 1979, 35/151 of 12 December 1980, 36/91 of 9 December 1981, 37/97 of 13 December 1982, 38/186 of 20 December 1983, 39/150 of 17 December 1984, 40/154 of 16 December 1985 and 41/61 of 3 December 1986,

Reiterating its conviction that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations and that all States should be in a position to contribute to the adoption of measures for the achievement of this goal,

Stressing anew its conviction that a world disarmament conference, adequately prepared and convened at an appropriate time, could provide the realization of such an aim and that the co-operation of all nuclear-weapon Powers would considerably facilitate its attainment,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the World Disarmament Conference, 1/

Recalling that, in paragraph 122 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/ the first special session devoted to disarmament, it was decided that, at the earliest appropriate time, a world disarmament conference should be convened, with universal participation and with adequate preparation,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Expresses its gratitude to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference for his consultations with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States, as well as with all other States, as requested in resolution 41/61;
3. Renews the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee;
4. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to continue to maintain close contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States, as well as with all other States, in order to remain currently informed of their positions on the question of convening a world disarmament conference, and to consider any relevant comments and observations that might be made, especially having in mind paragraph 122 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly; 2/
5. Also requests the Ad Hoc Committee to report to the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament;
6. Further requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold one session in 1988 of two days' duration for the preparation and adoption of its report to the third special session devoted to disarmament.

1/ A/42/542 and Add.1.

2/ Resolution S-10/2.